

SECTION 18. AREA REGULATIONS

(Editor's Note: Section XVIII updated 1/9/14 to reflect amendments adopted under Article 28 and Article 30 at 2013 ATM)

For the purposes of this Section, the Town of Wellesley is hereby divided into classes of area regulation districts as shown on the "Zoning Map of the Town of Wellesley, Massachusetts", prepared under the direction of the Planning Board, Scale 1" = 500', dated December 20, 2002, as amended, on file with the Town Clerk, which map together with all the boundary lines and designations thereon relating to such area regulations is hereby incorporated as part of this Section.

The classes of area regulation districts are respectively as indicated on said map:

1. Ten Thousand Foot Districts;
2. Fifteen Thousand Foot Districts;
3. Twenty Thousand Foot Districts;
4. Thirty Thousand Foot Districts;
5. Forty Thousand Foot Districts.

A. Dwelling and Club House Lots.

In Single Residence Districts, Single Residence Districts A, General Residence Districts, General Residence Districts A, Limited Residence Districts, Educational Districts, Educational Districts A, Educational Districts B, Administrative and Professional Districts and Limited Business Districts, there shall be provided for each dwelling or club house, hereafter constructed, a lot containing not less than 10,000 square feet, 15,000 square feet, 20,000 square feet, 30,000 square feet, or 40,000 square feet according to the area requirement of the area regulation district in which such dwelling or club house is situated, and hereafter, no dwelling or club house shall be erected or placed on a lot containing less than such minimum area. In Business or Industrial Districts or in Business Districts A or Industrial Districts A, there shall be provided for each dwelling (including apartment houses and apartment hotels) or club house hereafter constructed or placed, a lot containing not less than 10,000 square feet.

Nothing contained in this Section shall prevent the construction or placing of any such building on any lot (1) in any of said Ten Thousand Foot, Fifteen Thousand Foot and Twenty Thousand Foot Districts containing a smaller area, if such lot on the effective date of the applicable provisions of this Zoning Bylaw originally establishing such districts did not adjoin other land of the same owner available for use in connection with said lot, (2) in any said Thirty Thousand Foot and Forty Thousand Foot Districts containing a smaller area, if such lot on May 1, 1953 did not adjoin other land of the same owner available for use in connection with said lot, or (3) in any Business or Industrial Districts or in Business Districts A or Industrial Districts A containing less than 10,000 square feet, if such lot on May 1, 1941 did not adjoin other land of the same owner available for use in connection with said lot.

This Section shall not apply to the lots shown on the subdivision plans approved by the Planning Board pursuant to the General Laws, Chapter 41, as amended, prior to May 1, 1953.

No lot on which a dwelling or club house is situated, whether heretofore or hereafter placed, shall be reduced in area, if such lot is smaller than is hereby prescribed, or if by such reduction it would be made smaller than is hereby prescribed, except in either case by taking by eminent domain or by a conveyance for a public purpose.

B. Ratio of Building to Lot Area.

In Single Residence and General Residence Districts, Single Residence Districts A, and General Residence Districts A, no building or addition to any building shall hereafter be placed on any lot of land which will result in the covering by buildings of more than the following specified maximum percentages of the area of such lot or maximum building coverage expressed in square feet:

For lots containing less than 10,000 square feet - 25 percent;

For lots containing at least 10,000 square feet but less than 20,000 square feet – the greater of 20 percent or 2,500 square feet;

For lots containing at least 20,000 square feet but less than 40,000 square feet – the greater of 18 percent or 4,000 square feet – but not more than 6,000 square feet; and

For lots containing at least 40,000 square feet - 15 percent;

In Educational Districts B, Limited Residence Districts, Limited Business Districts and Administrative and Professional Districts no building or addition to any building shall be placed on any lot of land which will result in the covering by buildings of more than (20%) of the area of such lot, provided, however, that if the only buildings at any time on a lot in any such district are those permitted by Section 6.1., Section 8A.1., Section 9.1., or Section 10.1., then the limitations aforesaid shall be (25%) in lieu of (20%). In Educational, Business or Industrial Districts or in Educational Districts A, Educational Districts B, Business Districts A, or Industrial Districts A, no dwelling (including apartment houses and apartment hotels) or club house shall hereafter be erected or placed on any lot of land which will result in the covering by buildings of more than (25%) of the area of such lot.

C. Ratio of Families to Lot Area.

1. In General Residence Districts and General Residence Districts A there shall be provided for each dwelling hereafter constructed or placed therein a lot containing not less than 5,000 square feet for each Housekeeping Unit for whose habitation such building is designed or adapted or the minimum area required for lots in the area regulation district in which the building is located, whichever is greater.

Except that town houses may be constructed at a ratio in accordance with and subject to the provisions of Section 4.A.3.

2. In Educational, Business and Industrial Districts and in Educational Districts A, Educational Districts B, Lower Falls Village Commercial District, Wellesley Square Commercial District, Business Districts A and Industrial Districts A there shall be provided for each apartment house, apartment hotel, hotel, inn or town house, hereafter constructed or placed therein a lot containing not less than 2,500 square feet for each Housekeeping Unit for whose habitation such building is designed or adapted or the minimum area required for lots in the area regulation district in which the building is located, whichever is greater.
3. In the Wellesley Square Commercial District, the 2,500 square foot minimum lot area requirement per Housekeeping Unit for whose habitation such building is designed, set forth in Section 18.C.2 above, may be reduced to no less than 1,800 square feet for each Housekeeping Unit for whose habitation such building is designed or adapted subject to the terms of a special permit granted by the Planning Board, acting as the Special Permit Granting Authority, in accordance with the following performance standards:
 - a. A report shall have been received from the Design Review Board finding the proposed project is consistent with the design criteria listed in Section 22 and that the project is an improvement of building facades to enhance the pedestrian experience and contribute toward the history and vitality of Wellesley Square; and
 - b. All whole Assisted Units required to comply with Section 16B (excepting any fractional Assisted Unit) are to be constructed on the Development Area; and
 - c. There shall be provided for each project a minimum open space, as defined under Section 1B, equal to at least twenty percent (20%) of the Development Area; and
 - d. There shall be provided for each unit parking for two vehicles.

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